

# EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

## Patent Abstracts of Japan

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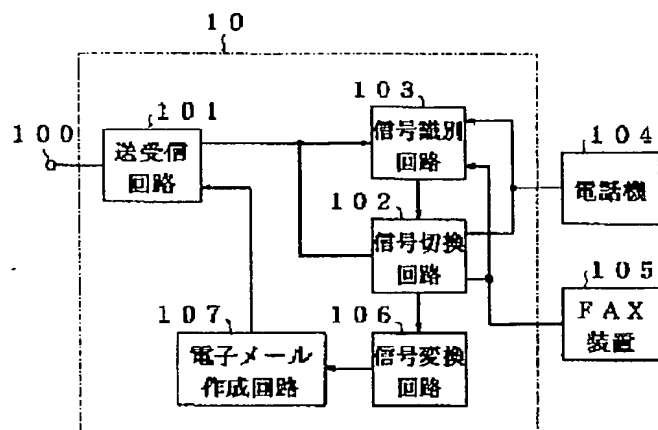
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APPLICANT : MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD;

INVENTOR : NISHIGORI YOSHIHISA;

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TITLE : NETWORK TERMINAL DEVICE



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To know whether there is a message or not or its contents without confirming the state of an automatic answering telephone by transferring a telephone call to a called subscriber who is away from home by an electronic mail.

SOLUTION: A signal received by a transmitting and receiving circuit 101 through a telephone line is supplied to a signal discriminating circuit 103 which discriminates between a telephone call and a FAX call. A signal switching circuit 102 switches the line to a telephone set 104 or FAX equipment 105. If the user is away from home at the reception time, a message is sent to the caller side and then the caller operates push buttons or records a message in response to the message. Then a signal converting circuit 106 converts the push-button tone or message voice into text data and transfers the electronic mail to a specific address of an electronic mail generating circuit 107.

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